

Service Area Plan

Department Of Conservation And Recreation

*Natural Outdoor Recreational and Open Space Resource Research, Planning, and Technical Assistance
(50406)*

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

DCR serves as the lead outdoor recreation planning agency for the Commonwealth and provides for the management of and planning for the protection, acquisition, improvement, and expansion of Virginia's outdoor recreation and open space resources, facilities, and services.

Service Area Alignment to Mission

This service area aligns with DCR's mission to promote the stewardship and enjoyment of natural, cultural, and outdoor recreational resources.

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Service Area Statutory Authority

- The overarching authority may be found in Section 1 of Article XI of the Virginia Constitution that reads: "To the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters, and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop, and utilize its natural resources, its public lands, and its historical sites and buildings. Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth."
- The department is responsible for acquiring, developing, improving, managing, licensing, and regulating the use of state parks and for undertaking a master planning process for all existing state parks, following the substantial acquisition of land for a new state park, and prior to undertaking substantial improvements to state parks. The department is authorized to acquire properties or interests therein of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historical interest, biological significance or any other unusual features that should be acquired, preserved and maintained for the use, observation, education, health and pleasure of the people of Virginia. Further, the department is authorized to permit and otherwise regulate activities on those portions of the Appalachian Trail under its control. The department is instructed to establish a Golden Passport card that authorizes persons receiving social security disability payments to enter Virginia's state parks without having to pay an admittance or parking fee. The department also is charged to establish, maintain, protect and regulate a statewide system of trails. Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 2, Article 1.
- The department is authorized to establish and maintain a comprehensive plan for the development of public outdoor recreational facilities; to establish standards for such facilities; to disburse funds to local, regional, and other state agencies for acquiring and developing such facilities; and to make regulations to carry out the statute. It may develop recreational programs and assist state institutions, agencies, and political subdivisions in developing such programs. The department is authorized to acquire property or interests therein to maintain the character of the land as open-space land. Such land is to be made available for agricultural and timbering uses that are compatible in maintaining the open-space nature of the property. Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 2, Article 2.
- The department is directed to cooperate with the Commonwealth Transportation Board in the designation of scenic highways and byways. Code of Virginia, Title 33.1, Chapter 1, Article 5.
- The director has the responsibility to designate a public recreational area as such and recommend to the Commonwealth Transportation Board that an access road or bikeway be provided to the area. Code of Virginia, Title 33.1, Chapter 1, Article 15.
- The department has the duty of studying rivers or sections of rivers, reporting upon and recommending to the Governor and the General Assembly those to be considered for designation as scenic rivers. The director shall serve as the executive secretary of the Virginia Scenic River Board and may appoint Scenic River Advisory Committees or other local or regional committees to consider and manage scenic river interests and issues. Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapters 4 and 4.1.
- The Board of Conservation and Recreation provides recommendations to the director on grants and loans pertaining to outdoor recreation, on the designation of recreational sites eligible for recreational access road funds, on master plans and substantial acquisition or improvement amendments to master plans, and on designations for scenic rivers, scenic highways, and Virginia Byways. The Board is authorized to conduct fund-raising activities as deemed appropriate and will deposit such revenue into the State Parks Projects Fund. Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 1, Article 2.
- Virginia Recreational Trails Fund; Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-240) replaced

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by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in the Transportation Act for the 21st. Century (TEA-21) United States Code (23 U.S.M. 206) reauthorized in the Safe, Accountable, Transportation Efficiency Act (SAFETEA) and the newly authorized Safe, Accountable, Transportation Efficiency Act – Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2005.

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965; P.L. 88-578

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Boards and Foundations	11	11
Conservation Organizations and Land Trusts	30	30
Government Agencies (Federal, State, and Local)	200	200
Recreational Users (campers, picnickers, hikers, etc.)	7,000,000	10,500,000
Regulated Community	10	10
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	22	47

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Service Area Partners

Agricultural Community

Service Area Partners

Boards and Foundations

Service Area Partners

Chesapeake Bay Program (Includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia)

Service Area Partners

Contractual Services

Service Area Partners

Engineers and Consultants

Service Area Partners

Federal Agencies

U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Defense; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Tennessee Valley Authority; Natural Resources Conservation Service; National Park Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Highway Administration; Bureau of Land Management

Service Area Partners

Local Governments

Departments of Parks and Recreation

Service Area Partners

Non profits

Service Area Partners

Regional Planning District Commissions

Service Area Partners

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Service Area Partners

State Agencies

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Virginia Department of General Services; Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; Virginia Council on Indians and Individual Indian Tribes; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; Virginia Department of Forestry; Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; Virginia Department of Health; Virginia Department of Rails and Public Transportation; Virginia Department of Social Services; Virginia Department of Transportation; Virginia Marine Resources Commission; Virginia Tobacco Commission; Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Service Area Partners

Tourism

Virginia Tourism Corporation

Service Area Partners

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Vendors

Service Area Products and Services

- Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- Technical Assistance
- Public Education
- Public Information

Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

- insufficient state funding levels
- declining federal funding levels
- increased demand for agency services/products

Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services

- Implementation of the 2002 General Obligation Bond and other General Assembly actions will result in the acquisition of up to seven new state parks, each requiring master plans. Many parks are in need of updated master plans due to the addition of lands or changes in facility needs. In addition, each park with an approved plan must have it reviewed and updated every five years.
- As the desire for sustainable and livable communities grows, there will be a need for increased technical assistance for the development of additional pedestrian and biking facilities.
- Growth of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and of the Chesapeake Bay Program will require substantial staff resources related to the coordination of the program within Virginia, the review of approved grants, and the development of public access to the system of Chesapeake Bay area water trails.
- Development of 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan will require extensive staff effort and a shift of staff from other work areas to complete this plan on schedule.

Service Area Human Resources Summary

Service Area Human Resources Overview

Service Area Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Summary

Effective Date:

Total Authorized Position level

Vacant Positions

Non-Classified (Filled).....

Full-Time Classified (Filled)

Part-Time Classified (Filled)

Faculty (Filled)

Wage

Contract Employees

Total Human Resource Level

Factors Impacting Service Area Human Resources

Anticipated Changes in Service Area Human Resources

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Service Area Financial Summary

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$722,764	\$2,446	\$722,764	\$2,446
Changes To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$722,764	\$2,446	\$722,764	\$2,446

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 50406.01

Provide timely and quality statewide outdoor recreation resource planning, information and assistance for the provisions of trails, greenways, parks, public access to state waters, Scenic Rivers, Virginia Byways, and other similar activities.

DCR serves as the lead outdoor recreation planner for the Commonwealth. As such, the Department is regularly charged by the legislature, executive branch and others with completing special studies, surveys, and park master plans. In addition, DCR authors the statewide comprehensive recreation planning and land conservation document every five years known as the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Completion of these responsibilities in a quality manner and within the prescribed time periods is essential to advancing outdoor recreational opportunities in Virginia.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Enhance opportunities to participate in natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- Measure 50406.01.01

Number of outdoor recreation plan, studies, and surveys completed annually.

Measure Type: Output

Measure Frequency: Annually

Measure Baseline: 16 - based on 2004 totals

Measure Target: 20

Measure Source and Calculation:

A master list will be kept by DCR's Division of Planning and Recreational Resources of all plans, studies, and surveys that have been assigned to the Division. A completion date will be documented on the list.

Objective 50406.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Develop 2007 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Develop state park master plans as acquired and update every 5 years.
- Provide input into the development of U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers management plans.